

Workingmen's Houses,
John McGee House
251 Southern Avenue
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-T

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
14-T-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

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Site Location: 251 Southern Avenue
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 1.22
Cadastral grid : NE1/4 NE1/4 S36 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691895.4705960
Lot dimensions : 46.6'x 137': .15 acre
Lot description: Lots 38 and 39 of
Mineral Lot 39

Present Owner: Iowa Department of Transportation
Present Usage: vacant
Present Condition : good

Overall Dimensions: main block: 16'x 30'; front porch: 8'x 16'; side
additions: 14'x 16'.

Orientation : east

Architectural

Description :

Plan type : rectangular one-story with enclosed front porch.

Foundation: parged stone perimeter walls on main block and front porch.

Structure : wood frame

Ext. walls: scalloped asbestos-cement siding on main block; vertically placed wood paneling on porch.

Roofs : shallow, side gabled roof with asphalt shingles on main block; shed roof over porch.

Chimneys : straddle-roof brick interior chimney, centrally placed on main block.

Dormers : none

Windows : wood 2/1 double hung sash on main block, with paired 1-light windows on east end of main block front; 1/1 double-hung on porch; plain casings, slip sills.

Openings : side door on main block with 1 light and three panels; 1-light door is on north elevation of porch.

Porches : enclosed front porch projecting from main block roof; concrete side patio sheltered by corrugated metal canopy.

Details : plainly boxed cornices; extensive stone retaining wall. Below house is a detached, front gabled one-car garage, built in 1971: frame with a concrete block foundation.

Construction Date : 1887

Architecture Style: Side gabled box

Physical History : Mineral Lot 39 was subdivided into residential lots by Dubuque estate speculators Sarah C. Disney, Isaac LaBoiteause and Job Randall in 1875. In 1887 LaBoiteause sold Lot 38 of the subdivision to John McGee and Lot 39 to Thomas McGee. Evidently John McGee built this modest single-story house that year. A laborer, he lived here with his wife Elizabeth [Eliza], and after his death she continued to occupy the house until the late 1910s. The property was acquired by the Iowa Department of Transportation in 1987 for demolition. The building has undergone substantial alterations and additions over its 100-year occupation, compromising its structural integrity.

Significance: The John McGee House is a contributing historical resource within the modest workingmen's houses built along Southern Avenue in the last quarter of the 19th century.

References: Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-32-2-38.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental
Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of
Transportation, Ames Iowa).

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